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New-York, Jan. 2, 1856.

The Board of Directors have this day declare I a seni au musi Divident of The per Centro on the Capital Stock of the Company, payable on and after the loth lost.

The Transfer Books will be closed until after that date.

HEXEY QUACKENEOSS, SECRETARY.

New-Pork Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1856.

In consequence of the enormous number of copies now printed on THE WHEKLY TRIBUSE, we are compelled to request our friends to send in their advertisements by to-morrow noon, in order to secure their insertion in this week's issue.

The Tribuue for California.

We issue THIS MORNING THE TRIBUNE for Calfornia, Oregon and the Sandwich Islands it contains a summary of all the Latest Foreign and Domestic News since the last steamers; Money and Market Reports, Marriages, Deaths, &c. The United States Mail steamship St. Louis for Aspinwall, will leave This Afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Mails for California and other parts of the

Pacific will close at I o'clock p. m. Single copies in wrappers ready for mailing can be had at the counter in the publication office This Morning. Price 6 cents.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

House, Jan. 19 .- After a short lecture from Mr. Chagman, and the adoption of a resolution to cut off debate and explanations during the calling of the rolls, the House balloted once more for Speaker. Banks had 94, Richardson, 69; Fuller, 31; Campbell, 3; Pennington, 3; Porter, 1; Foster, 1. Necessary to a choice, 102. Mr. Quitmen and Mr. Grow then indulged in speeches on Slavery and the Union in general and in particular. Mr. Colfax gave a history of the adoption of the plurality rule in 1849. Mr. Bocock was eminently national, and spoke of the white-as-snow purity of the old Whig party as compared with the crims a guilt of the Republican party. Mr. Bocock averred that he would stand there till the crack of doom to re sist the election of a sectional candidate for Speaker. Mr. Savage was especially firm, and stood as valiantly as Mr. Bocock in resistance to sectionalism. Mr. Grow affirmed, and Mr. Humphrey Marshall denied, that Henry Clay favored the establishment of the Missouri Compromise line in 1820. On motion of Mr. Clingman it was voted that for one week, unless a Speaker be sooner elected, no debate shall be in order unless by unanimous consent. Adjourned.

The past two days have been the first Saturday and Sunday for more than four months on which it has not either rained or snowed, and in most cases very violently. Saturday was warm and clear; but yesterday the air was extremely cold, with a high wind from the North.

The conclusion of the second part of Dickens's "Little Dorrit," two chapters of which were given in our paper of Saturday, will be found on the third page of this morning's TRIBUNE.

The steamship Africa, from Liverpool for this port, is now in her twelfth day out. Her news will be to the 9th inst., four days later than previous advices.

We give in another column some new and singular developments concerning the belief of Wakemanites in New-Haven. The statements are chiefly by Rhoda Wakeman, "the Prophetess," given to our correspondent in her own handwriting.

THE SPEAKERSHIP. It is high time for the House of Representatives to elect a Speaker and go to work, or break up and go home. The course of that body, in failing to organize itself, is disgraceful to its members, discreditable to the cause of representative government, and disgusting to every man of sease. American Republicanism stands humiliated by this state of things and disgraced before the world. A pack of unruly boys in a debating society, a riotous and unwashed assemblage of groggery politicians would be expected to do better than the House is doing in their empty and meaningless cries of the names of men for Speaker. Day by day the majority go up from their lodgings to the Capitol and insult the country and render themselves worthy of contempt by going through the farce of preventing the election of a presiding officer. Every man must feel that such an exhibition reflects discredit upon himself as a member of the greater political body of which these men are the misrepresentatives. Every man who has any character for sense or respectability must feel himself humiliated before the world at the scandalous spectacle daily presented by the House of Representatives. Mr. Clingman doubtless takes credit to himself for the proposition made by him on Saturday, and accepted by the House, to stop talking for a week and do nothing but vote; but for our part we cannot see why the Members might not as well utter nonsense and folly as vote nonsense and folly. While a majority of the body refuse to adopt the only mode of elect ing a Speaker which will end this contemptible contest-namely, the giving of the Speakership to the highest candidate, of what use is voting? It has been demonstrated that a majority will not agree upon any man, and that if a Speaker is to be elected at all it must be by the Plurality system Of what greater use then is it to spend another week in still-voting than in voting interspersed with prattle? Ten ballotings a week, under present circumstances, are as good as fifty. Mr. Clingman's proposition then is but an empty sham. But who is it that is preventing the election of a Speaker? Let the Washington Union answer. "It is, "says that journal in an elaborate article justifying the President for sending his Annual Message to an unorganized House, "a few factious leaders." Now, who are these leaders? What are the names of the men who are thus trifling with great public interests, and bringing obloquy and contempt upon our institutions? To what party or parties do they belong? These questions can easily be answered The men can be seen and known of all men. Their names are Clingman and Stephens, and the two Joneses of Pennsylvania and Tennessee, Quitman, and Orr, and Cobb and all the rest, big and little, who rejoice in the position of leadership in the Democratic and Slavery Extension party. To these are to be added the names of the leading Pro-Slavery Know-Nothings-Hamphrey Marshall, Fuller, Haven, and so These are the men to whom the Union's term of "factions leaders" applies, and these only. The Republicans of the House are ready and anxious to organize upon the Plu relity rule. Not a single true man in the House on that side is opposed to it. Upon the "factions leaders" of both wings of the Slavery Extensionists, rests the entire responsibility of this wretched state of things. Whatever discredit and diagrace may attach to the proceedings of the House rests exclusively on their shoulders. And this discredit and disgrace is enough to nausente every man who turns his attention toward the National Capitol.

As usual, the course pursued by the House, like the general course of all Federal legislation which refers, however remotely, to the question of Slavery, is dictated by the lords of the plantation. It is plantation tactics and plantation discipline that is enforced in Congress to prevent the choice of a Speaker. Everything that looks like rebellion to the rule of the slaveholder is to be quelled at all hazards. Slavery must be allowed full sway in the present as in the past, or the legislative proceedings of the Government are to be brought to a dead lock. This has been the virtual threat hitherto, as demonstrated in the action of the Pro-Slavery leaders of the House. It has at length been reduced to practice; and these proficients in accacity have dared to require of the Republican Members the abandonment of their candidate, because he is too determined a friend to Freedom. The Republicans are insolently told that unless Mr. Banks is dropped the House shall never be organized. We rejoice that the suggestion is received by them with the scorn which is its due.

It is cheering to behold the dignified and statesmanlike position held by the Republican Members, and to feel that they are in nowise responsible for the unwholesome condition of offsirs. Placed as they are in the House, a large and stable party surrounded by wrangling, factious and disappointed minorities, even though incapable of outnumbering these factions, they still exhibit before the country and the world a steady and persistent course of conduct, which can alone lead to an escape from the existing anarchy and confusion; and the country and the world will see and recognize in them the only party at this juncture whose councils and whose course lead to just and tranquil and statesmanlike results.

A NEW CIVIL WAR IN KANSAS. We gave in our paper of the 19th inst, two extraordinary letters from the notorious Atchison. one to the Editor of The Atlanta (Geo.) Examiner the other-which was indorsed in the first-an appeal to the State and people of Georgia, for instant material aid to the cause of the Border Ruffians. It seems that Governor Johnson of Georgia in his Message to the Legislature had recommended that if Kansas or any other Territory should be refused admission into the Union on the ground of having a Constitution that sanctioned Slavery, Georgia should thereupon instantly call a Convention and take steps for seceding from the Union. This, Mr. Atchison thinks, is very well; but he wants something more, namely, arms, men and money to be instantly forwarded to the aid of the Border Ruffians. As a ground for this call for assistance he proceeds to give an account of Kansas affairs as rich as it is characteristic. According to this account the Border Ruffians are quiet and excellent men, who have been ruthlessly set upon by a horde of Abolitionist invaders, sent out by the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society "for no other purpose but to vote at the elections and return home. Now this, it seems, is a business of which, by the laws of God and nature, the Border Ruffians claim for themselves an absolute monopoly. There they are, just on the borders. It is so convenient for them to step over the line and to regulate the affairs of Kansas. And don't they show themselves doubly Democrats by supporting at the polls the Pierce-Douglas candidates as well in Kansas as in Missouri ? This is not the precise form in which Atchison puts his case, but this is what it comes to Kansas belongs to the Border Ruffians, and everybody else who goes there is an intruder. The Border Ruffians are obliged by the most obvious laws of self-defense to drive them out; and they want men, arms and money from Georgia to help them

Such is the substance of the inclosed letter, which is dated at Platte City, Dec. 15, and which is written in a tone of comparative calmness. The inclosing letter, of which the date is not given. but which was evidently written some days later, and under the smart of mortification at the failure of the attack on Lawrence, betrays a much more excited spirit, and a fixed disposition on the part of Atchison to involve the Territory in a civil war. Indeed, according to a telegraphic dispatch, dated St. Louis, Jan. 19, and which appears in our columns this morning, that civil war has al ready commenced. This circumstance gives additional importance to the threats of Atchison, and induces us to reprint here all those portions of Atchison's last letter which the Georgia editor to whom it was addressed judged it expedient or prudent to publish:

"We are in a constant state of excitement here (Platte City). The Border Ruffians' have access to my room day and night. The very air is full of rumers. We wish to keep ourselves right before the world, and we are provoked and aggravated beyond sufferance. Our persons and property are not for a moment safe; and yet we are forbid, by the respect we owe our friends elsewhere, by respect for the cause in which we are engaged, to forbear. [The excenter's excitement seems to have produced a little confusion of ideas, exhibited in his words no less than in his actions. For certainly he, with his Border Ruffans, have acted as though they thought themselves forbidden to forbear.] This state of things cannot last. You are authorized to publish the whole or a part of what I have written; but if Georgia intends to do anything, or can do anything for us, let it be done speedily!

specific with the second second for the second seco institutions are at stake. You far Southern men a now out of the naive of the war, but if we fail, it w want men, armed men. We want money—not for curselves, but to support our friends who may come from a distance. I have now in this house two gallant young men from Charleston, S. C. They are citizens of Kansas, and will remain so until her destiny is fixed. "Let your young men come on in sunds as fast as

"ILet your young men come on in squads as fast as they can be raised, well armed. We want none but true men. Yours truly, D. R. ATCHISON.

"P. S.—I would not be assonished if this day laid the groundward for the company of the comp "P. S.—I would not be astonished if this day laid the ground-work for a guerrilla war in Kansas. I have heard of rumors of strife and battle at Leavenworth, seven miles from this place, but the ice is running in the Mississippi river, and I have nothing definite. I was a peace-maker in the difficulty lately settled by flov-ernor Shannon. I counselled the 'Ruffans' to forbear-ance, but I will never again counsel peace. D. R. A." Finding hirself constrained to abandon all hopes of being reflected to the Senate, Atchison, as he states in another letter, has made up his mind to be a citizen of Kansas, and to impose upon it, if possible, a Border Ruffian constitution. In the same letter he fully avows his intention, in case the Territory is refused admission into the Union with such a constitution, to contend that Kansas is a State sovereign and independent out of the

The Georgia Legislature, it would appear, is, after a recess, again in session, and The Atlanta Exeminer strongly urges it to take some action on Atchison's call for aid. The subject of Kansas affairs is also before the Ohio Legislature, Mr. Barber, one of the persons murdered by the Border Ruffians during the siege of Lawrence, was formerly a citizen of Proble County, Ohio, where a ass-meeting has been held and resolutions adopted to take measures to bring the murderers to punishment. These resolutions, as will be seen in another column, have been presented to the Senate of Ohio, and have been referred to the Committee on Federal Relations with instructions to report by resolution or otherwise. The Missouri Republican after having done all it could to stimulate the invasion of Kansas which resulted in the cold-blooded murder of Mr. Barber and others. thinks it quite outrageous that the citizens of Preble County, Ohio, should take any interest in the matter, and desires to leave the arrest and punishment of the murderers solely to the citizens of Douglas County, in Kansas, within whose borders this murder was committed. It is all right to go into another State to commit murder-such is the word of The Republican-but it is outrageous to volunteer aid to the authorities of that State, even on the part of the friends and acquaintances of the murdered men, to detect or arrest the murderers Very much the ideas of right and wrong to be expected from a Border Ruffian. It is stated in the Western papers that Clarke, the Indian Agent, who murdered Barber, keeps himself intrenched, and pretends that some of the Free-State men have threatened his life. Although he avows himself the murderer of Barber, no attempt is made to bring him to justice. What did the Presdent mean-if anything-by saying. in his Message: "The people of the Ter-"ritory [of Kansas] by its organic law, possessing the right to determine its own domestic institutions, are entitled, while deporting themselves peaceably, to the free exercise of that right, and must be protected in the enjoyment of it, without interference on the part of the citizens of any of the States?" What did the Soft Convention lately assembled at Syracuse mean -if anything-by indersing this declaration of the President! We hope some move will be made in the Senate of the United States to settle this question so far as the President is concerned, and the Softs of course will follow suit. The true interpretation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty may be a matter highly interesting to Mr. Clayton and some others, but at this moment the peopleare much more concerned to know what the President meant by the above declaration, and what he intends to do. Does he intend to aid and back the Border Ruffians in stopping immigration from the East, and putting down the new State Constitution? Putting his words, his action and his nonaction together, and knowing Mr. Cushing's particular skill at seeming to say one thing and meaning another we very much fear that such will be the true interpretation.

MASSACHUSETTS POLITICS.

The recent election of Mr. Clifford as Attorney General of Massachusetts goes to confirm the probability which we have already suggested of a complete union in that State, and dissolution in each other of those hitherto called Whigs and those still claiming to be called Democrats. It goes also to show the intention of his Excellency Governor Gardner if he cannot dispose of his Know-Nothing supporters to better advantage in the way of trading for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, speedily to sell out the whole lot as damaged and perishable articles, for whatever the Hunkers may choose to give him for them-say the United States Senatorship, in which he pires, we understand, if he can't do better before the election comes round, to succeed and supersede Mr. Sumner.

To understand the bearing of Mr. Clifford's election as Attorney-General of Massachusetts, it is necessary to go a little into that gentlemen's history. He first became known in the politics of Massachusetts, some twenty years since, as a representative in the Legislature from the Town of New-Bedford. New-Bedford has large and intelligent colored population, so numerous as not unfrequently to hold the balance of power in that city. It was a natural consequence that Mr. Clifford, who belongs by nature to the sect of trimmers, was quite friendly to the rights of the colored people. It was in fact through his adreit management of their case-for his adroitness as a lawyer nobody denies-that the Massachusetts Legislature was induced to repeal the prohibition, as old as the colony, against the intermarriage of whites with negroes, Indians and mulattoes. At the very pinch of the case a jocose observation of Mr. Clifford's-which, while it gratified the antipathies of the opponents of the measure, yet at the same time put them in good-humor -brought down the house, and insured the passage of the bill. "As some of his fellow-members," he said, casting a glance to the Abolition side of the house, "seemed so very anxious for the priv-"ilege of having milk and molasses children, be should certainly vote to give it to them-but then as to kissing the children, he hoped to be excused from that."

From that time forward Mr. Clifford was rising man, belonging, as generally did his Old Colony constituents and clients, to the liberal section of the Massachusetts Whig party. Not long after Mr. Clifford came into political life, in order to get rid of an exceedingly unpopular incumbent, the office of Attorney-General was abolished, and the State being divided into five districts, a district prosecuting officer was appointed for each. Mr. Clifford was appointed to this office for the district of which New-Bedford formed a part-and in his discharge of the duties of it gave decided evidence of superior ability and knowledge of his profession. After the lapse of several years, in 1849 or 1850, it was deemed best to re-establish the office of Attorney-General, and the appointment, as the Constitution then stood, being with Gov. Briggs, who belonged to the Anti-Hunker section of the Whigs, he selected Mr. Clifford at once from sympathy with what his politics were supposed to be, and because he was known to possess the necessary professional qualifications. Under this appointment Mr. Clif-ford held the place when Mr. Boutwell was chosen Governor by the coalition of Free-Soilers and

the coelition he was continued in office. That place he held during the Sims rendition in April, 1851, in which business he showed himself to be not only a doughface, but a consummate sneak as well. Sims, at the time of his arrest, drew a knife, and if we mistake not inflicted a severe wound upon Butman, one of the Deputy Marshals, by whom he was seized-a fellow since infamous for other similar services, and rewarded for them by a place in the Boston Custom-House. Among other devices to save Sims from the clutches of the body-snatchers was an attempt to hold him for trial under criminal process issued under the autherity of Massachusetts on the charge of a mur dercus assault upon Butman. The warrant, having been regularly issued, was put into the hands of the Sheriff, who demanded Sims of the Marshal, by whom the demand was treated with contemptslave-catching process being, in the view of that functionary, of altogether higher dignity than a Massachusetts criminal warrant. Under these circumstances Mr. Attorney-General Clifford was called upon for his advice. It was impossible for him not to hold that a Massachusetts criminal warrant cught to take precedence of a mere civil claim under the authority of the United States; but with the very view of enabling the Marshal to carry off Sims in spite of the Massachusetts warrent, he suggested to the Sheriff that as the Marshal refused to submit to the warrant he had better return it into the Police Court with that fact indersed upon it, thus affording the Marshal a

chance to run off with Sims, at a time when the Sheriff would have no warrant in his hands! For this service Mr. Clifford had his reward. It brought him into favor with the Hunkers, and as the other section of the party still hoped something of him, he was nominated by acclamation as Whig candidate for Governor at a time when the coalition had been broken up by the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill; and in the Fall of 1853 was elected to that office. But as is apt to be the fate of trimmers, long before his term expired he disgusted everybody, and seeing that he could not get a renomination he declined to be a candidate. Indeed, the Whigs were very hard put to it to find anybody to stand until in their desperation they took up Judge Washburn, who to the surprise of everybody, was chosen, chiefly through the favor of the Temperance men whom he shortly after deserted. Governor Washburn, thus elected, put back Mr. Clifferd into his old place of Attorney-General, and under his reappointment he still held the office when the Know-Nothings, in the Fall of 1854, by the aid and under the guidance of the Free-Soilers, succeeded in making Gardner governor. In Mr. Clifford Governor Gardner found just the sort of legal adviser he wanted; and though about everybody else was turned out Mr. Clifford held his place.

Meanwhile the Constitution of Massachusetts was amended so as to give the choice of Attorney-General to the people. Mr. Clifford was not a Know-Nothing, and had never pretended to be one, so it was too much to ask the Know-Nothings to nominate him. But the affair was easily managed. The nomination was given to a gentleman whom Gov. Gardner had already appointed a Judge -a permanent place with a better salary. That nominee was chosen by the people, but of course declined to accept, as everybody knew he would-nobody better than Gov. Gardner and Mr. Clifford, and the Know-Nothing managers who had made the nomination. There being, therefore, no Attorney-General, the Legislature undertookwe know not exactly on what authority-to choose one by joint ballot. All the Whigs, all the Democrats, and under the Governor's drill all the Know-Nothings, voted for him; and so we have Mensieur Tonson back again, with his objections to the Personal-Liberty Law in his pocket.

To obtain the repeal of that law is now the great object of Governor Gardner. He hopes from that repeal a Know-Nothing Vice-Presidential or even Presidential nomination, and at all events is sure to tickle the Hunkers. Whig and Democratic, and to convert them from enemies, still a little sore in the back and in consequence somewhat restive, into very serviceable beasts of burden. Of course Clifford will be ready with a new edition, revised and improved-and they need it-of his original objections; and it is also proposed to press the Supreme Court of the State into the service. By a peculiar and rather dubious provision of the Constitution of Massachusetts, the Governor and Legislature are authorized under certain contingencies to call for the opinions of the Judges of the Supreme Court on points of law. It is plain that the cases intended are purely those when a legal opinion is needed as to some executive action or action in its nature executive. It would be ridiculous to suppose that the Court could be called upon to express ex parte and without argument, an opinion upon the constitutionality of a law regularly enacted. Still nobody knows what the Court may do. Great confidence used to be felt in the Massachusetts Judiciary; but since their opinion in the Sims case in favor of the constitutionality of the Fugitive Act of 1850, nobody would be surprised at any decision they might make. Should they join in this conspiracy, it will have at least one good effect. It will hasten the time when the Judges of Massachusetts will be chosen by the people.

OUTHERN TACTICS AND MORALITY. Since it is impossible for the slaveholders in our

present House of Representatives at Washington to carry out their favorite and established usage of having a slaveholding Speaker, they are naturally exceedingly anxious to have that place filled by a doughface; the more contemptible he might b in point of character and abilities the more reconciled they would be to seeing him in the chair. On the other hand, just in proportion as Mr. Banks's superior good sense and self-control and superior qualifications for the office have been developed, just in the same proportion has the hostility to him of the slaveholders increased, till at last Mr. Howell Cobb, on behalf of his brethren,

-"Take any shape but that! Anybody may be Speaker except Banks!

The desperate efforts of these gentlemen to demolish Mr. Banks have been not a little amusing. Not long since, with great shouts and hurrahs, they fired a mine which they thought would surely blow him up. Mr. Banks, in some speech, some where, on some occasion, and in some connection, had said that if the Union were perverted from its legitimate objects, he would let the Union slide. 'Treason! treason!" shouted Governor Extra Billy Smith of Virginia. "Treason! treason! let the Upion slide, would he!" And while the nullifying Democrats quietly laughed in their sleeves, our exceedingly patriotic National Know-Nothings took up the cry, and rolled it with terrible rumbling noise from Washington to the remotest extremities of the country. But all this new appointment satisfactory to the two wings of time there sat Mr. Banks, as calm and collected into Imeretia—Is to announce the decision of the posing to permit a call of the House previous to

as when he made the speech. That effort proved no go. The Union might slide, but Mr. Banks would not; and it therefore became necessary to devise some new method of putting him in motion.

In reply to a certain question put to him about his epinion as to the comparative vitality, energy and capacity of the black and white races, M Backs, with a mock gravity well suited to the character of the question, had replied that as it seemed to be agreed among physiologists that when two races are in contact the stronger will end with absorbing the weaker-he preferred to leave that question to cettle itself. What a chance this for a mare's nest. The Southern guardians of personal and political purity hereupon put their heads together, and Mr. Clingman, after taking a night or two to sleep upon it, comes into the House one morning with a most dolorous countenance, charges Mr. Banks with the herrible heresy of amalgamaicn, and declares that in consequence thereof, he, Mr. Clingman, can never vote for him. Whereupon the slaveholding Members in a body, drawing down their faces into a horrible longitude, all begin to repeat in a deleful whisper, esif in a white sheet deirg penance-Amalgamation! Amalgamation! Yes, gentlemen, truly that is rather a delicate

theme; but if you choose to introduce it-have your own way. People are not yet quite booked up as to the personal history and habits of the Congress that new is, but judging from what is known of past Congresses, that is a topic upon which bere this present long session is over, it may be possible, if it is to be made a subject of publicatiscussion, to furnish the public with some very amusing, at least, if not very edifying details. On the principles and practices of Southern gentlemen in regard to smalgamation, the color of a pretty large propertion of the inhabitants of Washington furshes a striking commentary. If the present Southern members of Congress are anxious to bring that tonic up for consideration, and their own habits and practices as connected with it at Washington and at home, we presume they can be accommo dated. Meantime, and in the way of filling up the intervals between the ballotings for Speaker, we would respectfully suggest the following subject for debate: Which ought to be the greater disqualification for Southern votes, and the office of presiding over one or both of the houses of Congress-the being the open and admitted father of mulatto children, or the entertaining the physiological opinion that the stronger race will absorb the weaker? In conclusion we beg to offer Mr. Banks a word of advice. There are two classes of men in whose company a jest ought not to be ventured upon-to wit: fools and imposters. The first cannot take a joke for want of sense to see it; the second are sure to take it to heart as a dangerous personal assault on themselves. "Gravity," says Lord Shaftsbury in his Characteristics, "is the essence of imposture." To be obliged to play at the same time the double and inconsistent parts of Slavery Extensionists and advocates of Democratic ideas, must to men of any sensibility, be in itself sufficiently galling. No wonder it makes the Nebraska members a little touchy. It will be best for Mr. Banks, taking into account the ticklish part they are called upon to play, not to irritate them by even the slightest suspicion of a joke.

THE EUROPEAN NEWS.

The foreign news, though void of any facts as to the probabilities of peace, and necessarily so until an answer be given to the propositions Esterhazy has carried to Russia, is saturated with verbiage by writers supposed to be initiated into diplomatic mysteries. This, however, does not brighten the prospect of negotiations. The most prominent thing connected with the subject, is a new circular by Nesselrode, in which the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, somewhat in advance of the Esterhazy mission, announces the conditions upon which it is ready to negotiate. These bear almost exclusively on the regulation of the Black Sea, and are wholly opposed to the demands of the Allies. Russia insists on having those waters closed against the men-of-war of all nations with the exception of herself and Turkey, as they have frontiers on the coast to defend; and further, that the number an arrangement exclusively between these two

The famous pamphlet on the necessity of a general European Congress lately gave rise to infinite speculations, and the speech of Louis Napoleon, at the pompous reception of his Guards returning from the Crimes, produced the same result. The speculations on the speech embrace what he said as well as what he did not choose to say. The speech in itself is not so warlike as to point out new paths of glory to his warriors. It avoids all nention of the enemy as well as of the alliance.

The mission to St. Petersburg of the Saxon dip omat, M. de Seebach, is likewise the subject of various contradictory explanations. According to one he is gone there by the positive desire of Louis Bonaparte to bear witness before the Czar to the conciliatory intentions of the French despot, and according to others it was the Russian despot who desired his presence. During his diplomatic sejourn at the Court of the Tuileries, Seebach was a kind of neutral mediator for Russia, and looked after the Russian prisoners in France. It is said that Alexander II., having great confidence in this son-in-law of his Chancellor Nesselrode, wished to have a report from him vira roce as to the real state of official opinion on the part of the Allies. The fall of Kars with the retreat to Sukum

Kaleh has aroused great disaffection at Constantinople against Omer Pasha. This retreat, in fact, was forced upon him by the advanced season, by his army being wholly deprived of necessary material, by the furious religious excitement of the Christian population of Mingrelia and Imeretia, by the skillfull maneuvers of the Russian army under Prince Bebutoff, and above all by the hostile demonstration of the Caucasian mountaineers and of Shamyl-who by an unexplained anomaly seem now to side with Russia. As regards the latter fact, such at least is supposed to be the case from Shamyl's cold reception of Turkish and English emissaries, and from his having abstained for nearly a year from any inroad into Georgia. Omer Pasha seems to have fallen into disgrace with the population of Constantinople and with the Divan. A Council of Ministers was held at the Porte which was attended by all the military Pashas, by the first dragomans of the Allies, by Gen. Lorchey and Gen. Mansfield on the part of the French and English Generals, and by Col. Chiesa della Torre, a Sardinian officer. It was decided not to intrust to Omer the forces destined to defend Erzeroum and Asia Minor, but to take ten thousand of the best troops and join them to the forces stationed in Trebizonde, which are put under the sommand of Ismail Pasha. Mouklis Pasha-a Wallachian, son of the reigning Hospodar Stirbey, an enemy of Omer, and who was opposed to his recent march

Coupeil to the latter, and to execute the orders concerning the choice of the ten thousand men.

The Anglo-German legion in Turkey is in a state of great destitutis n, and deserters from it are said by the German papers to be begging for food.

WILLIAM RUSSELL, the historian of the day of Balaklava, he who told the fearful tale of the disastrous winter of '54-55, has been ignominously mobbed from the Crimea. Mr. Russell, in one of his recent letters to The London Times, had con mented severely on the drunkenness that prevailed in the British camp, and suggested that the cause of this disgraceful debauchery was to be found in the double pay which the soldier was receiving. He recommended that 6d. a day should be withheld from the men and put into the Savings Bank to their account. When The Times containing Russell's letter arrived in the Crimea, it created a great excitement among the privates. The more moderate contented themselves with writing home to the public journals to protest against the execution of Mr. Russell's plan and to neutralize its effect upon the public mind. These more intelligent representatives of their body declared that, in point of fact, the extra pay had not increased the number of dronkards; that the sober men, who were the vast uniority, wanted all the money they earned to purchase for themselves a few extras in the way of eatables which were to them luxuries, and that the many innocent should not be made to suffer for the few guilty of excesses. The drunken party took a more summary course. They assembled in force, stormed his hut, ruined his property, and it is said personally maltreated the worthy correspondent of Printing-House Square. When Mr. Russell applied to headquarters for redress and protection, is request met with no attention. Mr. Russell had from the first been very obnexious to the majority of the British officers on account of his exposure of their professional shortcomings, and they were only too glad that the common soldiery had treated him in a way their own position prevented them from doing. Mr. Russell has consequently been obliged to quit the Crimea, we fear, for ever. These facts have not yet been made public in the London papers, but have oozed out in the gossip of the Clubs.

THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH, OR SLAVERY AND FREEDOM .- In the State of Maine, which has no slaves and not enough of free colored inhabit ats to give that State the least direct interest in emigration to Liberia, the shipbuilders have subscribed money to build a ship to be presented as a free gift to the Colonization Society. The State of Virginia, under pretense of aiding that same Society, has laid a capitation tax upon the free colored people. Under this tax-net \$50,000 will be raised, which sum the generous and highminded State of Virginia has nobly appropriated to meet the expenses of the State Government, leaving the Colonization Society to whistle.

FROM WASHINGTON.

FRIDAY IN THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 18, 1856.

Mr. MACE of Indiana opened the ball this morning by offering a resolve that N. P. Banks, jr., be Speaker, William Cullom Clerk, and the Sergeantat-Arms, Doorkeeper, Postmaster, &c., be conceded to the Democrats. This resolve was tabled-none but Banks men supporting it.

Mr. GIDDINGS then rose to move the Plurality rule, and read from the record to show that on December 22d, 1849, Mr. F. P. Stanton (Demo-(rat) of Tennessee moved the Plurality rule, as agreed on by a committee of the two great parties, Whig and Democratic) and thereupon it was dopted.

A long and angry controversy followed-Messrs. H. COBB, LETCHER, G. W. JONES and others denying the accuracy of Mr. Giddings's representations. The facts finally appeared to be thus: A Committee of Conference was appointed on behalf of each of the great parties, and those Committees jointly agreed to adopt the Plurality rule. From the Democratic Committee, Mr. Stanton accordingly moved the Plurality resolve. But it seems Plurality rule, though whether this occurred before or after it was offered by Mr. Stanton as agreed on in behalf of the two great parties is uncertain. This point of time is very important, but it was not elucidated. Attempts to bully Mr. Giddings were made by several Southerners, but with poor suc-

Mr. TAPPAN of N. H. made a brief and forcible exposition of the fact that there is not an Anti-Nebraska majority in the House, and that this is the reason why no organization can be effected on

Mr. PURVIANCE of Pa. moved a Plurality rule, providing that after the 125th ballot, a Plurality shall suffice to elect. In support of this proposition, he lucidly urged the duty of organizing, and the impracticability of doing so otherwise than under a Plurality rule.

Thence followed a fierce, irregular debate beween Messrs, ORR of S. C., EUSTIS of La. and several Southerners against Mr. I. WASHBURN of Me .- the Southerners arguing that the Anti-Nebraska Members might have elected a Speaker on Wednesday by all voting for Mr. Thorington's mischief-breeding resolution to elect Mr. L. D. Campbell of Ohio Speaker. This point had been previously made by Mr. H. Coss, and was pressed by several others. It amounted to just this: Nebraska men are irreconcilably divided, and cannot elect a Speaker, whether by a majority or a Plurality: and we are determined that you shall not elect the man of your choice, but we will allow you to elect somebody else. It seems to me that no stronger testimony could be given to the position and character of Mr. Banks, nor to the duty and policy of standing by him.

Mr. CLINGMAN of North Carolina moved (Mr. Purviance withdrawing his proposition in his favor) that no other business shall be in order, and no debate of any kind, until the House shall have twice voted for Speaker; after which no vote shall be taken until the next day. Mr. C. explained that he moved this in order that Members should have time during business hours to attend at the Departments and transact business for their constituents, without having a Speaker chosen in their

Mr. L. D. CAMPBELL said a few words, proposing to discuss the Slavery and American question at some future day. He said he had not changed his positions one iota.

Mr. GEO. W. JONES of Tennessee threshed the same old straw, by an attempt to show all the Anti-Nebrasks men (including Dunn, Scott, Scott Harrison, Haven and others in this category) they might have chosen a Speaker long ago.

A wrangle now ensued on the form of Mr. Clingman's proposition, Mr. C., on suggestion, pre-